

REMARKS

Claim 3 is the sole claim presented for consideration.

The abstract has been replaced to better set forth the technical features of Applicant's invention.

Claim 3 has been amended to further distinguish Applicant's invention from the cited art. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, in Figures 3B and 3C and on page 11, lines 8-24 of the specification.

Claim 3 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Okamoto (JP '830). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 of Applicant's invention relates to an information recording/reproducing device for at least one of recording information on and reproducing information from a disc-like recording medium, and comprises a disc cartridge housing the recording medium, with the disc cartridge comprising a case main body having a housing part for housing the recording medium, with the housing part having an exterior surface, an aperture that allows a light beam to enter from an optical pickup that is provided to at least one principle plane of the case main body, a thin bridge part provided to the aperture, which is thinner than a cartridge case and located closer to the exterior surface than the recording medium, and a shutter for opening and closing the aperture, wherein the recording medium is on a side to be irradiated with the light beam in a state in which the disc cartridge is mounted to an information recording/reproducing device, a turntable for rotating the recording medium, and an optical pickup that emits a light beam to the recording medium so as to at least one of record and

reproduce the information, and which moves to/retracts from the aperture of the disc cartridge. In addition, a mechanism moves the optical pickup in an in-plane direction of the recording medium, and an objective lens is located farther from the exterior surface than the recording medium. As claimed, in at least one of a case where the recording is to be mounted to the turntable together with the disc cartridge, and a case where the recording medium is to be removed from the turntable together with the disc cartridge, the objective lens is retracted into a position opposite to the thin bridge part of the disc cartridge.

As discussed in the Amendment After Final Rejection of November 15, 2007, Okamoto relates to an optical head and disc driving device that includes a disc-like recording medium housed in a disc cartridge. As shown in Figure 4, the disc cartridge includes a main body 35 and a shutter 36. The cartridge 17 is received in a device main body 10, having an optical head 15 therein. The Office Action asserts that a thin bridge part 34 of a housing is disposed at a position further from the optical pickup than the surface of the recording medium.

In contrast to Applicant's claimed invention, however, it is respectfully submitted that Okamoto fails to teach or suggest, among other features, a thin bridge part that is located closer to an exterior surface of the housing than the recording medium. This is evident from Figure 5 in Okamoto. Further, Applicant maintains that Okamoto also fails to teach or suggest an objective lens that is retracted into a position opposite to the thin bridge part of the disc cartridge. In this regard, the continuation sheet of the Advisory Action mailed November 27, 2007, comments that this feature is not claimed. In response, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the last two lines of Claim 3. In contrast, in Okamoto the objective lens

22/23 retracts proximate to an aperture 33 and not the thin bridge part 34, as best seen in Figures 7B and 7C.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Okamoto fails to anticipate or render obvious Applicant's invention as set forth in Claim 3. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Thus, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claim 3 is patentable over the cited art.

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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